

Message Text

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44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W
----- 080077

P R 311000Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2538
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFUT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3133

DEPT FOR A/SY/T/SP

FRANKFURT FOR RSS/RTC

ATHENS FOR TSO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED CHRYSLER

REF: STATE 253847

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSES PARALLEL QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL:

- A. CURRENT MILEAGE: 2,947
- B. EVALUATION OF CONDITION: GOOD
- C. FREQUENCY OF USE: DURING WEEK, EXCEPT WEEKENDS.

1. COM USES VEHICLE APPROXIMATELY 4 DAYS A WEEK FOR OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION, OFTEN SEVERAL TIMES DAILY.

2. COM USES VEHICLE FOR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS ONLY, USING ANOTHER CAR FOR PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION ON WEEKENDS.

3. COM USES VEHICLE FOR ALL OFFICIAL MOVES IN NICOSIA REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF THREAT.

4. COM RERELY USES VEHICLE OUTSIDE OF CITY IN VIEW OF THE FACT
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THAT VEHICLE IS LEFT-HANDED DRIVE IN A RIGHT HAND DRIVE

(BRITISH) TRAFFIC SYSTEM. VEHICLE IS SAFETY HAZARD TO OCCUPANTS ON HIGH-SPEED, CURVING TWO-WAY ROADS, WHICH ARE STANDARD FOR CYPRUS COUNTRYSIDE.

FYI: THE ONLY LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE CITY IN GOC-CONTROLLED AREA TO WHICH THE COM NORMALLY TRAVELS IS LARNACA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LIMASSOL (BY SAME ROAD) AND TROODOS.

D. ASSESSMENT

ALTHOUGH VEHICLE IS USED ONLY ON OFFICIAL SECURITY MOVES AND ONLY WITHIN THE CITY, IT SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THIS LIMITATION IS ATTRIBUTED TO VEHICLE HAVING LEFT-HAND DRIVE. IF VEHICLE HAD RHD, USE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER AS SAFETY HAZARD ON LONG TRIPS WOULD BE ELIMINATED. THREAT AGAINST COM IS AS GREAT NOW AS IT WAS WHEN LATE AMBASSADOR DAVIES WAS KILLED BY SMALL ARMS FIRE IN AUGUST 1974. WE PRESENTLY OPERATE UNDER IDENTICAL ASSUMPTIONS OF POSSIBLE ATTENTAT BY RADICAL CYPRIOT POLITICA GROUPS OF EXTREME LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT AS WE HAVE SINCE AUGUST 1974. THEREFORE, POST RECOMMENDS VEHICLE BE RETAINED. SHOULD DEPT'S EVALUATION RESULT IN REMOVAL, POST WOULD REQUIRE REPLACEMENT RHD ARMORED VEHICLE SOONEST. CRAWFORD

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